Endicott Development Project

Public Hearings

Nuiqsut

1984

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PUBLIC HEARING

FOR THE

ENDICOTT DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

FEBRUARY 29, 1984

NUIQSUT, ALASKA

7:30 P.M.





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CAPT. MALONEY: I'm Captain Mike

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Maloney, with the Corps of Engineers. Colonel Saling, our commander, the District Engineer, couldn't be here this evening because he hurt his leg, but he did want... he especially wanted to hear the comments of the people of Nuiqsut so he asked me to come and listen to your comments.

The meeting tonight is as a result of an application received by the Corps of Engineers for a permit for development of the Endicott Development Project, submitted by SOHIO and ARCO ... correction, SOHIO and Exxon. Sorry. The project is to recover oil and gas reserves from the Endicott reservoir, located off of the Sag River Delta in the Beaufort Sea.

The EIS, the Environmental Impact Statement, this large document that some of you have ... which we have plenty of copies of, by the way, if anybody else would like one... That document is being prepared by the Corps of Engineers in order to evaluate the impact of this proposed project. And the purpose of the meeting tonight is to hear your comments as to whether the impacts addressed in this draft Environmental Impact Statement covered your concerns or not. If they did not, then that's what we want to hear this evening at this meeting so that we can include your concerns in the final Environmental Impact Statement, which will be published sometime in May.

Rich Gutleber, with the Corps of Engineers, is responsible for the Environmental Impact Statements, and the purpose of that





1 document, that study, is to help Colonel Saling make the decisi 2 whether to issue the permits or not. The oil companies will not 3 be able to go ahead with the project unless they get the permits, 4 and that will be a decision that Colonel Saling will have to make. 5 So he is interested in getting the comments of the people of 6 Nuigsut on this project and on how well the draft Environmental 7 Impact Statement addressed your concerns. 8 I quess, at this time, we're interested in hearing 9 whatever your concerns are. 10 UNIDENTIFIED: Okay, sir, I think 11 our interpreter (INDISCERNIBLE) will... if you speak a little at 12 a time, he can interpret. 13 CAPT. MALONEY: Okay. 14 (TRANSLATION) 15 CAPT. MALONEY: Thank you. 16 If anyone has any comments at this time, we would like 17 to hear them. 18 UNIDENTIFIED: (INDISCERNIBLE) 19 information... (INDISCERNIBLE) about the causeway... (INDISCERNIBLE) 20 (SPEAKS IN NATIVE UNIDENTIFIED: 21 LANGUAGE) 22 UNIDENTIFIED: I'm going to read 23 my statement in the Native language first and then I'll give it 24 to you. 25 (READS IN NATIVE LANGUAGE)



I'll read it in English real fast. This is the first oil development in the Beaufort Sea, something we have opposed with no consideration to our opposition. So in spite of our opposition, it is not realistic to think we can stop you. So our next probably futile step will be to see how you are going to develop the environmental fragile grounds to your advantage.

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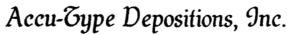
We know our own stocks of fish to Nuigsut migrate along the shallow shores from the east and do not and will not leave the warm shallow pathways. They will not follow up on your theory of fish passes you are hoping to create on this four-mile causeway. The causeway you are developing for your road will surely be the ultimate end of our subsistence way of life. Surely there are other alternatives, just like San Francisco's Oakland Bay Bridge. Too expensive? I think not. As a lifelong Native resident here, I must think of my descendants who will be here 100, 500 years from now and they will have to live with your inexcusable experi-Surely we can't stop progress. So... The Indians couldn't either, with their buffalo. You needed the skins of the majestic buffalo for your convenience.

History is truly repeating itself without regards to the Native elements of the land, who have coexisted with the land, tamed it, (INDISCERNIBLE) themselves with subsistence for thousands of years. Surely in these times you can consider what the Natives... element is very strongly opposed to the experimental causeway you are creating. A monument to the selfish greed of the



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1 white man, and that's what it will be in years to come. 2 has left alone, you are proposing to change the fragile elements 3 of the North. (INDISCERNIBLE) fish migrations by (INDISCERNIBLE) 4 tidal water silt upheavals and God knows what else. 5 At least let us know what other alternatives you have. 6 Essentially, you are still an infant in your oil spill cleanups. 7 You have never observed a major oil spill as yet. (INDISCERNIBLE) 8 yes, your 600-page EIS is full of may happen, underlined may 9 happen. Too many times it is not to be accepted at face value. 10 Let us postpone this experiment for now. 11 maybe... The world now is in an oil glut. You can afford to 12 forego this for now for the benefit of the state. 13 (SPEAKS IN NATIVE LANGUAGE) 14 CAPT. MALONEY: Thank you very 15 We would like a copy of your letter to include in the 16 final EIS. Thank you. 17 UNIDENTIFIED: Do you have a map 18 of that causeway, sir? 19 We have CAPT. MALONEY: Yes. 20 several of the sketches that are in the Environmental Impact 21 Statement, in that large book... have been taken out and put on 22 the board. 23 UNIDENTIFIED: Please show where 24 the causeway (INDISCERNIBLE) 25 (TRANSLATION)

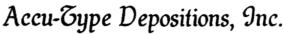




1 MR. GUTLEBER: Okay, there are, 2 as you can see, six drawings, basically six drawings here. 3 first three here show alternatives of various numbers of islands 4 with the causeway. That's these three here. One island, then 5 the two-island concept, and then the three-island concept, which 6 is discussed in the EIS. 7 This drawing here, this dashed line, shows a buried 8 pipeline going from the outer island to the West Dock with no causeway to shore. 10 UNIDENTIFIED: No causeway on 11 shore? 12 MR. GUTLEBER: No causeway to 13 shore and no... There'd just be a surface pipeline... this route, 14 with nothing come in --15 CAPT. MALONEY: A pipeline under 16 the water instead of under a causeway. 17 MR. GUTLEBER: And then there's 18 also the proposal of a two-island causeway ... a two-island 19 development with no causeway to shore, coming ashore with the 20 buried pipeline at the Sagavanirktok River Delta, but no causeway, 21 and these are ideas that have been addressed and looked at in the 22 document and will continue to be looked at through, up to and 23 including the final EIS.

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permit for this project may not be the one that the applicants,

Now, the decision that the Colonel will make on the



SOHIO and Exxon, would like. We still have to address an envir mentally preferred alternative, one that not only satisfies the concerns of the impact on environment... and the environment includes the people who live here, what they live, how they live and what they live on. They may say no to this project and tell the applicant, "Come back and give us a better idea because there are these concerns here." We are not proposing this project. are obligated by law to go through this process with you and the rest of the people of this state to analyze, to find out what is Then we will go back to the applicant and tell wrong with it. them these problems and get answers from them. But we're not proposing this project. I have to make myself clear here. It's SOHIO proposing it. We're obligated by law to issue, deny or issue a permit with specific conditions on this project. main goal is, if the project is to be built, it will be built right, protecting everybody.

But as we get done here, if you'd like to come up and take a look at these, I'd be glad, and so will Captain Maloney, here, to show you these... you know, explain these drawings to you. They are the same drawings that are in the document.

TRANSLATOR: (CLEARS THROAT)

MR. GUTLEBER: I'm sorry, I went

too long.

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(TRANSLATION)

MR. NUKAPIGAK: (SPEAKS IN NATIVE



1 LANGUAGE)

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(CHANGE OF TAPE)

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MR. NUKAPIGAK: (CONTINUES IN

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NATIVE LANGUAGE)

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TRANSLATOR: Edward Nukapigak just indicated that, from the beginning when the industry... you know, oil industry, first came and talked with the village, one of the first things that they had indicated when they were in the process of doing seismic exploration within the Barrier Islands was that if they find oil, that they would be able to... they're going to extract that oil, that they would be able to extract it through the buried pipelines. This was one of the promises that they had made and he feels that that would... that it would seem that it would be more preferable on his mind if the pipeline was to be buried, but with lots of reservations because of the impact of what is going to happen, nobody knows.

(SPEAKS IN NATIVE LANGUAGE)

CAPT. MALONEY: Thank you, Isaac.

My name is Maggie MRS. KOVALSKY:

Kovalsky and I also oppose to the three designs there because of our fish that travel... you know, come around the Mackenzie and over to our rivers here, would be ... you know, they probably won't want to travel that way any more so who knows where they'll start going from there.

And then, with all the noise and activities going down

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there in the ocean, our bowhead whale that migrate... you know, not far from that area, migrating all the way to Canada, probably will be hurt also, and if something ever happens, a spill or anything, I think it would harm a lot of our... food, our food we depend on like the fish and the bowhead whale and the duck. Because we live off our subsistence here to this day and the plants and stuff is our diet.

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That's why I don't think it's a... When I read, you know, part of this... I didn't even go through the whole book myself because there's a lot of ... "This might happen... No, this might happen." They are not sure what's going to happen. They didn't study it enough, to me, you know. That's the feeling I get. These oil companies are proposing all these designs... I don't think they really studied and are really concerned with our feeling.

Escuse me, were UNIDENTIFIED: these two proposals proposed by SOHIO and Exxon... on the map? CAPT. MALONEY: SOHIO and Exxon 19 have... I'd better let Rich explain how they've proposed the project.

MR. GUTLEBER: Okay, the appli-22 | cation that we've received from the oil industry, their... what they'd like to build, is the two-island with the causeway, the pipeline in the causeway coming ashore in the Sagavanirktok River ... in here.



The Environmental

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(TRANSLATION)

MR. GUTLEBER:

Impact Statement process... its primary responsibility, then, is

to take that as a... what might be called a base case, but then

to look at all the other alternatives, alternatives that would

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it.

they want to do it?

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produce or allow the production of oil and gas from out of the ground but not necessarily to do it the way that they want to do

UNIDENTIFIED: But that is how

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MR. GUTLEBER: That is... The two-island concept, with the causeway coming ashore in the Sag River, that is the way they want to do it. That is not saying that's the way it will be done.

(TRANSLATION)

MR. GUTLEBER: I'd like to say one more thing. Well... I'm sure there's other things I'll say tonight... but the Environmental Impact Statement, the analysis that is done to study the impact of the project on the environment, is one side of the coin that the Colonel... that Colonel Saling has to look at when it comes time to make a permit decision.

The other side of the coin is the public interest. Is the project that's being proposed in the best public interest?

If it's not, he can deny that permit for just that reason. The project could be fine for the environment, but if the people don't

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want it, and they don't want it strong enough, he can deny the If there are real concerns that the public has and they're real, I see no reason... or, I have not heard anything tonight that would lead me to believe that they're not real, he can deny it for that reason.

(TRANSLATION)

MS. ERICKLOOK: (SPEAKS IN NATIVE

LANGUAGE)

Bessie Ericklook TRANSLATOR: voiced... objecting to the whole thing. I'm sure that it's in the tape and whoever is going to be interpreting that will be interpreting it to you, but she also mentioned that there's... that ever since the industry... or, the white man, first came, they had this feeling of neglect of the Native people because the land was important and they found that there's much wealth in Therefore, their idea is to starve the Natives so that they, themselves, would be able to get the land from the Natives. The cellars and the camping sites that the Native people had within Sagavanirktok area, within Prudhoe Bay area, and Kuparuk area... they've taken those... on their own, probably hoping that they'd been abandoned for life, and this is not the case. Native people may look as if they have abandoned an area, but they never abandoned the area because they go back to that area for subsistence.

She objected to the whole thing.

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1 UNIDENTIFIED: (SPEAKS IN NATIVE 2 LANGUAGE) 3 (LAUGHTER) 4 MRS. NUKAPIGAK: My name is Ruth 5 Nukapigak. (SPEAKS IN NATIVE LANGUAGE) 6 (CHANGE SIDE OF TAPE) 7 MRS. NUKAPIGAK: (CONTINUES IN 8 NATIVE LANGUAGE) 9 TRANSLATOR: Don't look at me. 10 (LAUGHTER) 11 TRANSLATOR: Another opposition, 12 very strong opposition. Ruth Nukapigak was explaining here what 13 she had seen at one time when a crew had... had a whale... went 14 over and went through the mouth of Sag River down to the Barrier 15 Islands where the whale was, and seeing it from the air and saw 16 that the islands that they're talking about aren't close together, 17 but are quite far apart. And the work that they're hoping to do, 18 whether they use the causeway or whether they bury the pipeline, 19 would have some environmental impact on the migration of the 20 species that we have within that area, whether it's fish or whether 21 it's seal or whether it's whale and whether it's man. 22 We do have the other village also, which is our 23 neighboring village, the village of Barter Island, that would have 24 the same impact as we would here at Nuigsut and... even though 25

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they had certain technology available to them, we still don't know



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these things and that they have never actually demonstrated to ... to make us feel that what they're doing is safe.

There's also some type of a dye that they use when there's an oil spill, that they will discolor that so that... so that from the surface, a naked eye would not see it. vices are the things that would impair the species that we have within the sea, the ocean.

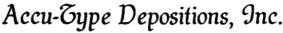
Because of these things, and because of the uncertainness of what they have that's never been proven in our area yet, she's quite opposed to the idea of having Colonel Saling approve that permit.

I don't know if I summed it correctly, but that's basically what was being said, to some degree.

MR. GUTLEBER: Can I ask... Did you... If I heard you correctly, did you say that she said that there's an ability for an oil industry to hide an oil spill from the naked eye?

TRANSLATOR: That was what she mentioned, because it's been known before. It was demonstrated to her.

MR. TAALAK: For information, (INDISCERNIBLE) will probably be around one well, these two islands... (INDISCERNIBLE) through the causeway and the oil industry wants to operate year around in this case, even during fall whaling, migration season?



LANGUAGE)

CAPT. MALONEY: That is the pro-They have told us that, if they couldn't operate year

around the project would not be economically feasible and it would kill the project for their purposes.

MR. TAALAK: (SPEAKS IN NATIVE

CAPT. MALONEY: Mayor? Mayor?

If they could not drill year around... I just wanted to explain that again... they would have severe reservations about continuing with the project. I guess it would depend on if they were allowed to go maybe ten months of the year, it might be on the border as far as allowing them to continue with the project. Maybe six months a year, they would say we can't do it. It would be up to industry at that point to make a decision.

(TRANSLATION)

MR. LONG: My name is Frank Long and I've got opposition to both proposals on your map, but I've got a suggestion in mind that would probably work 11 and a half months a year, or ten and a half months a year. They could run barges from that island to the East Dock or the West Dock, and during this they've got trucks and the trucks can tank 10,000 or 11,000 gallons a trip. That can be done. In the meantime, I would suggest that they go that route or find a better proposal, for my opinion, that I would receive this.

CAPT. MALONEY: No pipeline?

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1 MR. LONG: No pipeline. 2 causeway. Thank you. 3 CAPT. MALONEY: Thank you. 4 UNIDENTIFIED: Excuse me, can we 5 take a ten minute break? Some of them would like to smoke. 6 CAPT. MALONEY: Yes, ten minute 7 break. 8 Come look at the sketches, if you like, and if you want 9 to pick up a copy of that EIS, we have more copies over there or 10 more copies in this box and we brought them for you, so please 11 take them. 12 (HEARING RECESSED) 13 (HEARING RESUMED) 14 (CHANGE OF TAPE) 15 UNIDENTIFIED: (IN PROGRESS) 16 (SPEAKS IN NATIVE LANGUAGE) 17 UNIDENTIFIED: For your informa-18 tion... For your informa... (INDISCERNIBLE) has a house trailer 19 on the proposed Prudhoe Bay site. (INDISCERNIBLE) 20 CAPT. MALONEY: She has a trailer 21 on what site? 22 UNIDENTIFIED: House. 23 CAPT. MALONEY: Or, a house trailer 24 on what site? 25

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UNIDENTIFIED: No, she has a house

1 over there at the... 2 (SPEAKS IN NATIVE LANGUAGE) 3 UNIDENTIFIED: (REPLIES IN NATIVE 4 LANGUAGE) 5 UNIDENTIFIED: She has a house but 6 she hasn't been able to live in it or go to it because of the de-7 velopment. 8 CAPT. MALONEY: Okay, is it around 9 Deadhorse... in the Deadhorse area? 10 UNIDENTIFIED: No, it's on East 11 Dock, located on East Dock. 12 CAPT. MALONEY: Okay. 13 MR. IPALOOK: I have a question. 14 My name is Rand. Is anybody doing any research on fish before 15 you issue a permit for that causeway? 16 CAPT. MALONEY: Yes. Work has 17 been done out there. They have, for the last two years, been 18 collecting... In addition to fish, they've been collecting a lot 19 of other information out there, but they have studied the fish 20 And nobody... There's nobody that knows for sure 21 where the fish really are... you know, how many are offshore, 22 how many run near shore, what percentage that run near shore... 23 you know, how much of the total population that represents. 24

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there's still some questions that need to be answered ... and so

what they've done is, they've taken a model and said, okay,

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1	if fish pass through the area with this in the way, what would
2	expect them to do?
3	MR. IPALOOK: Does it The
4	causeway will cause some impact on us because we are our
5	fishing grounds depend on fish.
6	CAPT. MALONEY: That's why we
7	told them, when they were talking about a solid-fill causeway,
8	that they have to also look at putting breaches in them and then
9	to study that to see if that would allow the fish to go through.
10	We don't know for sure if the fish may come up to the opening
11	and say, "Hey, it's too dark, let's go back the other way."
12	MR. IPALOOK: I don't think anybody
13	knows.
14	CAPT. MALONEY: No. Nobody know.
15	for sure. It's still a guess.
16	MR. NAPAGEAK: My name is Thomas
17	Napageak. I'd like to make a few comments on the environ
18	(INDISCERNIBLE) statement put together by the Corps of Engineers
19	for SOHIO's proposed impact development.
20	The proposal indicates that SOHIO wants to build a
21	causeway four miles out into the ocean to connect to drilling
22	islands.
23	CAPT. MALONEY: Right.
24	MR. NAPAGEAK: With the shore.
25	The proposal also indicates that the oil would be brought to





1 shore on pipelines buried underneath the road, and once on the 2 shore it would run alongside the road to Sagavanirktok Delta? 3 CAPT. MALONEY: Mm-hm. 4 MR. NAPAGEAK: And onto the big 5 TAPS pipeline. 6 CAPT. MALONEY: Right. 7 MR. NAPAGEAK: SOHIO would also 8 build a water flood system, taking water out of the ocean. 9 CAPT. MALONEY: Right. 10 MR. NAPAGEAK: And I really 11 believe that these are based on less expensive ways of retrieving 12 oil for the oil companies or, to put it in plain words, it's more 13 profitable for the oil companies ... 14 UNIDENTIFIED: You've got that 15 right. 16 MR. NAPAGEAK: ... overlooking the 17 ways it would hurt our land, our animals and our subsistence. 18 Endicott being the first oil development offshore on the North 19 Slope, it must be planned and developed very carefully. 20 plans developed could have a lot of impact on other offshore 21 developments on the North Slope ... on the North Slope in the 22 The causeway sticking out into the ocean, I know, will 23 change currents along the coast. Furthermore, it will change 24 the migration route of the fish that we depend on.



The road and pipeline across the Sagavanirktok Delta

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1 ... we very well know would interfere with caribou migrations, 2 also birds, ducks, that use the delta for nesting. 3 also indicates that the (INDISCERNIBLE) and ice pile up in the 4 first few years after the causeway was built... the ice would tear 5 up the causeway apart, break pipelines, and then an oil spill. 6 I believe these have got to be answered before any 7 major development takes place. 8 (SPEAKS IN NATIVE LANGUAGE) 9 (CHANGE SIDES OF TAPE) 10 MR. NAPAGEAK: (CONTINUES SPEAKING 11 IN NATIVE LANGUAGE) 12 (APPLAUSE) 13 (SPEAKS IN NATIVE UNIDENTIFIED: 14 LANGUAGE) 15 MRS. NUKAPIGAK: (SPEAKS IN 16 (SPEAKS IN NATIVE NATIVE LANGUAGE) My name is Ruth Nukapigak. 17 LANGUAGE) 18 UNIDENTIFIED: (SPEAKS IN NATIVE 19 LANGUAGE) 20 TRANSLATOR: Basically... 21 Basically, everybody (INDISCERNIBLE DUE TO FOREGROUND DISCUSSIONS) 22 There is strong objection to the total development within that 23 area but... it means that the industry is going to go ahead and 24 develop that area... then the only alternative source that they 25 feel would be buried pipeline, underground.



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I would like to make some comments also. My name is

Nelson Ahuakana. My comment is on the Endicott Development

Project Environmental Impact Statement which the Corps of Engineers
has been putting together.

I feel very strongly that what is being proposed by the industry is against the wealth of the Native people because, even though that there's been some projects being discussed and everything, as far as the impact around the... the migration of animals and species, there has never been mentioned what the impact is going to be on the habitat of man.

The Native people... their livelihood depends on the sea, on the animals, the migration of caribou, the migration of ducks, the migration of fish, the migration of whales and bearded seals, or hair seals, and those others that we did not name.

What kind of an impact would it have if such a development would be approved and there would be no... no keeping back
as to what the Natives would do? I'm against this development
because of that. There's been some environmental statements
pertaining to the impact of animals and everything, but never
has there been any on the impact of the Native people.

The owners of the... The subsistence users of this land... Once the depletion of oil is made, then all you would see after the completion of the industry's work would be mechanical pumps with hardly any people available to maintain these and you see those areas down at Lower 48, around Los Angeles area and

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around Texas, all you see for miles and miles is just pumps wit nobody maintaining those except that they're being maintained by themselves. This is what you're going to be seeing up there. They're going to go, but the Native people that have lived in this area will still be here.

What type of an impact are they going to have? I would like to ask Colonel Saling, before he even attempts to consider the proposals that are given for permits, that in his own mind that he consider the tremendous amount of impact that these things would have on the Native people.

I hope he sleeps well. Thank you.

(APPLAUSE)

CAPT. MALONEY: I thank you all for your comments. I understand that you've had many meetings and I thank you for coming to one more meeting. But as you know, it is very important that Colonel Saling understand your feelings and your concerns and that's what we want to take away from here tonight.

We will have the comments that were recorded on the tape recorder translated and written out for Colonel Saling to read and Rich and I will both report to Colonel Saling with our notes and tell him of your concerns. In addition, we would ask that, if you can send some letters to the Corps of Engineers expressing your concerns, if the village council can consolidate concerns and send us letters, that would be that much better and



1	that would help Colonel Saling to understand all sides of this
2	issue, not just what the oil companies are telling him, but what
3	the Native people think about it also.
4	UNIDENTIFIED: What kind of a
5	build is Colonel Saling? Is he a youngster, (INDISCERNIBLE)
6	enough to not know when to slip, that he broke his leg or somethin
7	Or, is he a guy who's matured and good sense up here, to make
8	decisions?
9	CAPT. MALONEY: He's my boss
10	So
11	UNIDENTIFIED: I'm a good friend
12	of Colonel Nunn (ph) (INDISCERNIBLE) and he was a pretty good guy.
13	CAPT. MALONEY: Colonel Saling is
14	very sharp, has very good sense, and he's very concerned about
15	what the people of the villages think about this project. That's
16	why he wanted me and Rich, especially, to come meet with you since
17	he could not himself. But he is very concerned and he's not a
18	youngster. He has a lot more wisdom than I do, but he will be
19	making the decision and he appreciates very much the fact that
20	you would come to this meeting tonight.
21	(TRANSLATION)
22	(MISCELLANEOUS CONVERSATION IN
23	NATIVE LANGUAGE, UNIDENTIFIED)
24	(END OF HEARING)





1 CERTIFICATE 2 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA) SS. 3 STATE OF ALASKA I, Sunshine V. Sheffler, Notary Public in and for the 4 state of Alaska, residing in Anchorage, Alaska, and Certified Electronic Court Reporter for Accu-Type Depositions, do hereby certify: 6 That the annexed and foregoing pages numbered 3 through 23 contain a full, true and correct transcript of proceedings of the public hearing for the Endicott Development Project held in Kaktovik, Alaska on the 2nd day of March, 1984, commencing at the hour of 7:00 P.M. as transcribed by me to the best of my know-9 ledge and ability; 10 That the original transcript has been retained by Accu-Type Depositions for the purpose of filing the same with 11 the Department of the Army, U.S. Army Engineer District, Alaska, Corps of Engineers, Pouch 898, Anchorage, Alaska, as required by law. 12 13 I am not a relative, or employee, or attorney, or counsel to any of the parties, nor am I financially interested in this 14 action. 15 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal this 1st day of May, 1984. 16 17 SUNSHINE V. SHEFFLER 18 NOTARY PUBLIC IN AND FOR ALASKA MY COMMISSION EXPIRES 8/06/84 19



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